

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2007EDU0108-000992
Aug. 3, 2007

Ministry of Education

\$2.2-MILLION SEISMIC UPGRADE FOR ÉCOLE DES DEUX MONDES

CAMPBELL RIVER – The Province has approved nearly \$2.2 million in seismic upgrades at École des Deux Mondes elementary to provide a safer learning environment for students and staff, Comox Valley MLA Stan Hagen announced today.

“Our government believes it is important to be adequately prepared for emergency situations,” said Hagen. “That is why we are investing well over a billion dollars in protecting British Columbia's children by making seismic upgrades at schools across the province.”

The gymnasium at École des Deux Mondes was seismically upgraded previously. The \$2.2 million in new funding will be used to upgrade the remainder of the school, including:

- strengthening the existing concrete masonry walls with steel decking and steel reinforcing bars;
- improving connections between the roof, walls and foundations; and
- bracing the existing covered play area.

The upgrade of the French immersion school is scheduled to take about 11 months, with completion set for August 2008. The budget includes about \$315,000 for the purchase and installation of three portables required for temporary accommodation during the construction period. The portables will be relocated to other seismic upgrading projects when the work at École des Deux Mondes is completed.

“The safety of B.C. students is a priority for our government,” said Education Minister Shirley Bond. “The renovations at École des Deux Mondes are part of our \$1.5-billion seismic upgrading plan that will make B.C. schools safer learning environments for students and staff.”

Since 2001, three school construction projects worth \$9 million have been completed in the Campbell River school district, including an addition to Carihi secondary school, the renovation of Willow Point elementary and a new Ripple Rock elementary. Campbell River schools have received more than \$4 million over the last four years under the \$1.5-billion seismic plan, including seismic upgrades to Southgate middle. As well, a \$7-million seismic upgrade to Carihi secondary school is scheduled to commence this summer.

“The funding of seismic upgrades to École des Deux Mondes represents a longstanding commitment by the Province to our students, and is a significant investment that will ensure they are safe and secure in their learning,” said George MacLagan, board of education chair for the Campbell River school district.

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During the last six years, the Province has spent over \$1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 32 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovation projects across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than \$2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects across British Columbia.

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Media Greg Dickson
contact: Public Affairs Bureau
 Ministry of Education
 250 387-6940
 250 882-1559 (cell)

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